

man who had not had his enemies; but he (Mr. Broad) would take this opportunity of publicly stating that Capt. Burgan had been very much maligned, for, in the face of his reports having been called into question, he had produced far more satisfactory results than promised. All he could say was that he fervently hoped Captain Burgan would successfully continue the good work he had begun. The toast was "Health, Long Life, and Prosperity to Capt. Burgan." (Cheers.)

Mr. E. Cooke could not allow that toast to be drunk without making a few remarks. He fully agreed with Mr. Broad that Capt. Burgan had been very much maligned, but the malingerers were only those who were jealous of Capt. Burgan's prosperity. He (Mr. Cooke) had proved Capt. Burgan to be a zealous and an upright man, and a man of the strictest probity, and in every respect deserved the unlimited confidence of every shareholder. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Peter Watson also had the greatest confidence in Capt. Burgan, and, notwithstanding what others might say to the contrary, he (Mr. Watson) and his friends would continue their interest in the mine, believing in its value, and having the most unbounded confidence in Capt. Burgan. (Hear, hear.)—The toast was drunk with acclamation.

Captain BURGAN, on rising to respond to the very flattering manner in which they had referred to him in proposing his health, and to the other gentlemen present for the cordial way in which it was received. As regards East Lovell, it was some seven years since that he appeared in that same room as a single individual for the purchase of that mine, it being at the time offered for public competition. He bought it, and a company was formed for the purpose of developing the property. From that time to the present it had passed through varied phases, and in 1862 such was the critical position of affairs that it was almost agreed to dissolve the company. But he (Capt. Burgan) never once lost confidence in the property, and he might truthfully say that Mr. Edwards, Mr. Rogers, and himself, who kept the mine afloat, at length the north lode was intersected, which produced a little tin, and in 9 ft. deeper it was worth 181 per fm., and it gradually increased in value to 401, 601, 701, 801, 901, and 1001 per fm., down to the 26 fm. level. Several agents, who were no enemies to him, said that, notwithstanding there was a good lode, it was impossible to work the mine, for it was not an end. But he persevered with the sinking of the shaft, and the mine did not appear at an end yet. Not only one, but dozens of inspectors had visited East Lovell, who had confounded themselves, and grievously erred in judgment, simply from not understanding the mine. There had been inspectors there, too, and some of them in a good position, who would go away and say there was no tin there, although the mine was making large returns. The present was the first time he had referred to inspectors, and he could not help saying that some of the reports had displayed the sheerest ignorance of the mine, but still may have served their employers' purposes. As regards East Lovell, he believed the more they explored the greater would be the results achieved; but, under any circumstances, there need not be the slightest apprehension that the property would retrograde from its present satisfactory position, for the lode in the bottom of the shaft was now worth 2001 per fm., and that was 37 fms. from surface, the junction was worth over 1801 per fm., and the winze over 901 per fm. (Hear, hear.) If those points only held at their present value for six months longer the whole county would be astounded at the results. (Hear, hear.) As regards Great East Lovell, there had been already discovered eight lodes, all of them within 15 fms., and he believed it would prove a very successful enterprise. (Hear, hear.)

Other toasts having been drunk, the proceedings terminated.

GREAT EAST LOVELL MINING COMPANY.

A general meeting of shareholders was held at the Star Hotel, Helston, on May 26, Mr. H. ROGERS (the purser) in the chair. The accounts showed a credit balance of 3000l.

Captain BURGAN (the manager) read his report, as follows:—
May 26.—In cross-cutting 40 fathoms we have intersected six well-defined lodes, varying from 1 to 3 ft. wide, composed of conical matrix for tin ore, some of which already bear visible tin. We have also found a small lode of tin ore, and a lode of tin ore, both of which contain tin. I may remark that we have been singularly successful in the discovery of so many lodes, and in ground most favourably situated, being not far from the limits of East Lovell.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the sum of 3000l., the amount of the call made, had been placed in the hands of the bankers, and he could assure the shareholders it would be expended as judiciously as possible in the development of the mine. Mr. E. COOKE enquired of Capt. Burgan if he had yet determined upon the position of the engine-shaft?—Capt. BURGAN said he had not yet decided, but he thought it would be upon the lode that was 3 feet wide—one of the lodes in East Wheel Lovell. He felt convinced that Great East Lovell would prove a rich mine. He need hardly say that he did not wish to disparage East Wheel Lovell; but the lodes in that mine never presented such features at the depth as were presented by the lodes in Great East Lovell.

Mr. PETER WATSON wished to know if he was to understand from Capt. Burgan that the lodes in Great East Lovell at the present depth presented more favourable indications than at the same depth were presented by the lodes in East Wheel Lovell?—Capt. BURGAN said that such was the case.

It was then unanimously resolved that the resolutions passed at the previous meeting should be confirmed, and that the operations at the mine should be forthwith vigorously prosecuted. —Capt. BURGAN mentioned that the discovery of the different lodes since the company had taken possession of the mine had greatly enhanced the value of the property. —A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

WEST PAR CONSOLIDATED MINING COMPANY.

A general meeting of shareholders was held at the office of the company, Austinfriars, on Wednesday, Mr. W. JARDINE in the chair. Mr. J. H. MURCHISON (the secretary) read the notice convening the meeting, and the minutes of the last were approved. The accounts showed a balance of liabilities over assets of 1577l. The following reports were then read:—

May 28.—Since the last general meeting of this mine, the 80 has been driven east of Dawke's shaft 21 fms. 4 in., the lode for this drive varying from 1 to 2 ft. wide, composed chiefly of peach and spar, with a small portion of tin; the lode for the last 6 feet driven is very much improved in character, and is now yielding good saving work for tin, and looking kindly to improve. The 80 cross-cut has been driven about 11 fms. 1 ft.; the ground here has not been so favourable for driving as I anticipated; the end is still very wet, the water being highly mineralized, which is an indication of getting near a lode; the bearing of the south lode is found to be about parallel to the north lode so that, without a great alteration in the underlie or bearing of the lode, there remains about 20 fms. more to be driven through to cut it. The 65 end east has been driven 20 fms. 2 ft.; the lode will average 1½ foot wide, yielding about 2 cwt. of tin to the 100 sacks; the lode in the present end is small, being about 6 inches wide, containing a little tin, but not sufficient to value. The lode in the back of the 65 is 2 ft. wide, producing 4 cwt. of tin per 100 sacks, with a bunch of ore on the north part 6 in. wide, of rich quality; worth for tin and copper 121 per fathom. The 55 end has been driven east 15 fms. 1 ft., the lode averaging 1½ foot wide, yielding about 1½ cwt. of tin per 100 sacks. A rise has been put in here promising, and in the present end is 1½ foot wide, producing a little tin, but not of much value. The lode in the eastern stop, in bottom of the 65, is 1½ foot wide, composed of peach and spar, yielding 3½ cwt. of tin per 100 sacks, or worth 51 per fm. The lode in the western stop, in bottom of the same level, is 2½ ft. wide, of a very promising character, producing 1½ cwt. of tin per 100 sacks, with a good bunch of black and grey copper ore on the north part; worth for tin and copper 101 per fm., and looking kindly to improve; and as the lode in the 80 is improving in value, and getting towards the ore ground gone down from the 65, I still anticipate good results in this direction. For the future working of this mine I would recommend that the driving of the 80 end east be continued; a winze be sunk for ventilation from the 65 to the 80; to drive the cross-cut south with a full pair of men; to drive the 65 end east by six men, and the 55 by four men. Should the lode in the 80 end prove productive, which I believe it will, we could then sink Dawke's shaft another lift (10 or 12 fathoms), and then explore east and west at that depth. We have now at surface, in course of dressing, 1301 worth of copper ore, which will be ready for sale in a fortnight; and our present prospects will enable us to increase the returns of tin in future. —W. WOODCOCK.

May 30.—Agreeably with your instructions, I have again inspected West Par Consols Mine, of which the following is my report:—Since my last inspection, in Nov., 1863, the 80 has been extended east of Dawke's shaft, on the course of the lode, 21 fathoms. In this driving the lode has passed through the cross-course, and for several fathoms through unaltered ground; it is now looking more promising, and in the present end is 1½ foot wide, composed of quartz and peach, producing saving work for tin, but not sufficient to value. This end has completely drained the water from the 65, which end is upwards of 70 fms. in advance of the 80; this is a favourable indication of there being a large and porous lode beyond the 80 end. The 80 cross-cut is extended south of Dawke's shaft 11 fms., and from calculations 20 fms. further driving will reach the south lode; this is a good speculation, and about six months' work for a good pair of men. The 65 end has been driven east 20 fms.; a great portion of this driving has been through productive ground both for tin and copper. The lode in the present end is now small, in consequence of intersecting a cross-course a few feet from the end; but no doubt the lode will again improve after passing from the influence of the cross-course. In the western stop, in bottom of this level, which is about 20 fms. in advance of the 80 end, the lode is 2 ft. wide, and of a very promising appearance, composed of quartz, iron, and peach, worth for tin and copper 121 per fathom. In the stopes in bottom of the same level, and 90 fathoms further east, the lode will average 1½ ft. wide, worth 61 per fm. for tin. In the stopes in back of the 65 east, and 15 fathoms behind the present end, the lode is 2 ft. wide, producing some rich work both for tin and copper, worth at the present time 151 per fathom. From present appearances you can return 1401 worth of tin and copper per month from the stopes in this level. In the 55 end east the lode is 1 ft. wide, producing a little tin, but not sufficient to pay for working. From the kindly character of the lode in the different levels throughout the mine I still consider that it is deserving a more spirited development. The sinking of Dawke's shaft, as recommended in my former report, should have been continued, when by this time you would just be in a position to prove the lode at a deeper level, then by extending levels east and west of the shaft I have no doubt of the lodes making good bunches of tin and copper. There are other parallel lodes in the set which have never been developed, and, therefore, cross-cuts should be continued driving to prove the same; and should these side lodes prove as productive as the lode already wrought on, coupled with the chances of other improvements, it is in my opinion you would then establish a good mine. Of course, to do this it will require a larger outlay of capital; but for the outlay to carry out the operations I have recommended I consider there are good chances of the adventurers being well remunerated; and, in conclusion, I must strongly recommend to you the necessity of a more vigorous prosecution to ensure chances of success. —FRANCIS PUCKEY.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the reports be entered on the minutes, and that the accounts be passed and allowed. —Mr. WILSON thought the reports just read were much more favourable than hitherto. Their great mistake had been in not developing the property in a vigorous manner. The report of Capt. Puckey seemed at least a fair one. They all knew that in the adjoining mines the middle levels—between the 50 and 70 fathom levels—had proved poor, but that below that point remunerative ground was again met with. The property was unquestionably in a very good district; their stopes were now of much greater value than for some time past, producing in one level about 1401 per month, and the general indications were favourable.

Capt. WOODCOCK, in reply to a question, stated that the present chances of making returns were much more favourable than at any time since he had been connected with the property. —Mr. RICHARDSON enquired the present monthly cost?—The SECRETARY replied that the cost since the last meeting had been about 2001 per month.

The SECRETARY mentioned that the mine had sold upwards of 10,0001 worth of ore, the greater portion of which had been returned from one level. When Capt. Charles Thomas inspected the property a few years ago he gave it as his opinion, founded on the lode in the 65, that where you would then establish a good mine, to do this it would require a larger outlay of capital; but, as in the neighboring mines, proved poor. The 65 had also been comparatively unproductive; but in the 55, lately begun, there was every appearance of an improvement.

Mr. WILSON enquired the number of men that were employed in driving the 80 end

east?—Capt. WOODCOCK replied that there were six men employed in driving that end, for which they were paying about 51 per fathom. The ground, however, was gradually improving, so much so that he thought they would be able to drive it for much less than 51 per fathom. They were driving about 5 fathoms per month.

Mr. RICHARDSON enquired the probable value of the present monthly returns?—Capt. WOODCOCK replied that the stopes were at present worth about 1401 worth of ore per month. If the lode in the bottom of the 80 should prove according to their expectations, the returns would be considerably increased.

The SECRETARY (in reply to a question) stated that it was desirable that calls should be made with the consent of the holders of a majority of the shares, for, under those circumstances, any arrears could be easily recovered. He need hardly say that those shareholders who paid their calls regularly did not wish to be left in the "lurch," owing to some legal technicality, by those who adopted an opposite course.

After some discussion, it was proposed by the CHAIRMAN, and seconded by Mr. C. S. FAYREBROTHER, "That the accounts of the mine, which have been already produced and audited at meetings of the shareholders on Nov. 22, 1863, Sept. 21, 1863, Nov. 4, 1863, May 6, 1863, Dec. 10, 1863, May 27, 1863, and Dec. 1, 1863, having been again this day produced to this meeting by the purser, and having been now again examined and found correct, be and are hereby allowed and passed, and the calls made at the above respective dates be and are hereby confirmed."

The resolution was put and carried.—A call of 1s. 6d. per share was made. A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

SOUTH DARREN MINING COMPANY.

A general meeting of shareholders was held at the offices of the company, Austinfriars, on Monday, Mr. CHAFFIELD in the chair.

Mr. J. H. MURCHISON (the secretary) read the notice convening the meeting, and the minutes of the last were read and confirmed.

A statement of costs and returns for the six months (Oct. to March) was submitted, from which the following is condensed:—

Mine cost	£1592	1	2
Dues	139	14	1
London expenses	95	10	4
Discount on ore bills	17	10	10=£1847 16 5
Lead and copper ore sold	1816	4	11
Leaving debit balance	£	31	11 6

The report of the agent was read, as follows:—

May 27.—Since the last general meeting a winze has been sunk from the 60 to the 70, which has well ventilated this part of the mine. The lode in the stopes over the 70 east is 2 ft. wide, worth for lead 6 cwt. per fm.; it is being worked by two men. The 60 east has been extended 2 fms.; the lode in the end is 18 in. wide; for the present this is suspended in consequence of its being poor. The lode in the stopes over the 60 east is 2½ ft. wide, composed of a dark clay-slate, sugary spar, carbonate of lime, and lead ore, value of the latter 7 cwt. per fm.; this is being worked by four men. The 50 west has been extended about 10 fathoms; the width of the lode throughout this drive will average about 15 inches, producing occasionally spots of lead and copper ore, but not enough in value; next month this end shall be pushed on by six men, in order to reach the ore ground which has been passed through in the 30, and is now passing through in the 40. The 40 west has been extended about 20 fms.; for the last 6 fms. it has passed through ore ground; valued for lead and copper from 101 to 121 per fm.; the lode in the present end is 2½ ft. wide, worth for lead and copper 161 per fm., with every appearance of a further improvement as we advance; and, judging from the ore ground which has already been passed through in the 30 over this point, I am looking forward to good results in this direction; this is being worked by six men. In this level preparations are now being made to lay down a tram-road for the discharge of stuff, which, when completed, will greatly facilitate our workings. A winze is now being sunk below this level to meet the 50, about 35 fathoms west from the shaft, which shall be pushed on as fast as possible; this is worked by four men. A winze has been sunk from the 30 to meet the 40, which has secured good ventilation in the 40. The 30 has been extended west about 18 fms. (of this 6 fathoms was disordered ground in consequence of the cross-course); for the last 4 fms. the lode has been valued at from 121 to 401 per fm. for lead and copper; the lode in the present end is 3 ft. wide, though not quite so good for copper as last reported; present value for lead and copper 351 per fm.; the water continuing to flow freely from the lode at this point, I consider it a good indication of further improvement; this is being driven by six men. A winze is being sunk by six men below this level to meet the 40. The lode in the stopes over the 30, west from winze, is 3 ft. wide, worth for lead and copper (for 5 fms. in length) from 401 to 451 per fm.; this is being worked by six men. The stopes over the 30, east from winze, is worked up to the bottom of the 20; the men are now engaged in clearing off the ore stuff broken on this still; this is being done by four men. The 20 west has been extended about 14 fathoms; the lode throughout this drive has been disordered in consequence of the cross-course previously passed through at this point; it has produced a little ore, but not enough to value; however, I am glad to say the ground for the last 6 ft. driving has become more settled; the lode is larger and more compact, with a little lead and copper in it, and presents indications of improvement. I believe we are on the eve of a better lode; here I wish to remark that the ground which we have recently passed through at this point is precisely similar to that in the 30, previous to our cutting the last bunch of ore; this is worked by four men. The shallow adit has been extended west about 16 fms.; the lode in this drive has produced in places spots of lead and copper, but not sufficient to value; I am glad to say that the lode in the present forebore is 2 ft. wide, yielding some good lead; the lode at this point presents a much better appearance than I have noticed for some time past, and I hope it will ultimately lead to satisfactory results; this is worked by four men. We purpose driving a shallow level on the eastern part of the mine, the object of which is to prove the lode at a shallow depth in advance of the deeper levels. I should recommend that the above points be carried out. I attach great importance to the driving of the ends west, being in whole ground to surface, and of great promise. Within the last six months we have returned over 40 tons of lead and 46 tons of copper ore, the total amount of which is about 14501. We shall sample 10 tons of lead to-day. On the dressing-floors we have about 7 tons of lead and 6 tons of copper ore. To carry out the foregoing points it will incur a monthly expenditure in labour cost of about 2801, with the same number of hands, to which will have to be added merchants' bills, making the total cost about 2601, against which I calculate, under present circumstances, of returning about 2801 worth of ore per month until such time as more ore ground has been laid open. There are employed in and on the mine 69 hands, 50 of whom are employed on taskwork. —JOHN BOUNDY.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the accounts be received and adopted, and stated that he thought the shareholders would agree with him in thinking that the general prospects of the mine were of an improving character. —Capt. BOUNDY stated that the lode in the 40 was worth fully 181 per fathom.

The SECRETARY enquired what quantity of ore was sampled on Friday last?—Capt. BOUNDY: 10 tons.

The SECRETARY, referring to the accounts, stated that against the debit of 3651, there were 25 tons of copper ore, which had realised 2871. —Capt. BOUNDY, by means of a section, pointed out that in the 30 west the ore ground passed through was about 35 fms., and in the 40 they had passed through about 7 fathoms.

The CHAIRMAN enquired if Capt. BOUNDY could expediently extend the present operations?—Capt. BOUNDY said that even if the company had a large capital he could do nothing more than was at present being done. The different points of operation were worth about 1171 per fathom. The western part of the mine was very promising, and they had 300 fms. of unexplored ground in that direction.

A SHAREHOLDER did not think it would be desirable to issue the forfeited shares just now, seeing that the mine presented such encouraging prospects, for the fewer the shares the better would it be for the shareholders. —The accounts having been passed and allowed, it was agreed that the forfeited shares should be disposed of.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

LABUAN COAL COMPANY.

The ordinary general meeting of shareholders was held at the company's offices, Threadneedle-street, on Tuesday, Sir J. D. H. ELPHINSTONE, Bart., M.P., in the chair.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting, and the report of the directors, and the accounts and reports were submitted.

The report of the directors stated that the quantity of coal raised during the year 1863, although considerably in excess of the proportionate yield for the last nine months of 1862—the quantity in the twelve months being 10,807 tons, against 3205 tons in the nine preceding months—has been prudently kept within certain limits by Mr. Sinclair, owing to the great difficulty experienced in obtaining vessels on charter to remove it to the markets at Singapore, Saigon, and to ports now open to foreign trade in China, and the inconvenience and expense that would have attended the storage of too large a stock at the island, had it been allowed to accumulate. The difficulty referred to was aggravated during the latter part of the year by the visit of the *Alabama* to the Eastern seas, whose raids amongst the Federal shipping, and destruction of a barque in the neighbourhood of Singapore, led to a blockade of all vessels sailing under the Federal flag, and enhanced freights, already high. The steamer *Stirling*, under charter to the company, only arrived at Labuan, as the shareholders will recollect, at the end of December, too late, of course, to contribute towards the realisation of the coal up to the date of the accounts now published. A contract was entered into with Her Majesty's Government in March last for the supply of 4000 tons of coals at Singapore, deliverable into the Admiralty stores there after the 1st November next, by which time the *Stirling* will have fulfilled the Hong Kong contract for 6000 tons, as well as other engagements, and be available for the service; and Her Majesty's steam ships have received instructions to call at Labuan on their passages up and down the China Seas. The Singapore agents dispatched 111 Kay Coolies to Labuan in March last, and at the date of the last letters (April 8) 100 more were in course of being shipped. All the men are of the class most favourably reported on by Mr. Sinclair. The lease of the mines in this company's favour was signed on behalf of the Crown on the 30th ult., and confers upon the company the exclusive power of mining coal in the island of Labuan for a period of 21 years from December 25 last, at a royalty of 6d. per ton on the quantity raised for the first seven years, and of 1s. per ton for the remainder of the lease, with the privilege of cutting timber and occupying, rent free, any land required for the construction of railways or tramways, and the right of acquiring unappropriated surface land to the extent of 1000 acres, at the price of 11s. per acre. The attention of the directors has been drawn during the year to the importance of cutting coal by machinery, and they have placed Mr. Sinclair in possession of full particulars of its cost and mode of application. The directors consider it due to Mr. Sinclair to acknowledge the great zeal and ability he has shown in developing and superintending the mining operations, and also in arranging for the shipping and advantageous disposal of the coal produced.

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the reception and adoption of the report and accounts, observed that they had now reached the thick seam in the A pit, and Mr. Sinclair's clear and distinct report put them in possession of all the information upon the colliery operations. The price of coal had been low for the last two years, owing to the market having been overstocked by speculators. They now hoped that the return to the normal supply of coal, and that the effect would be to retain prices at a remunerative figure. The capital of the company having been exhausted in developing the mine, they came before them, as required by the Articles of Association, to increase. They had been obliged to employ a steam collier, as they found with the rates of freights that had been ruling it was impossible to go on satisfactorily otherwise. They had been enabled to enter into an agreement for coal with the China and Japan Steam Navigation Company, to whom it was to be supplied at 21s. per ton, f.o.b. at Labuan, and the China and Japan Company had bound themselves to take at least 20,000 tons annually. During the past year the number of ships which had called to coar at Labuan, and much increased, and as their coal was now becoming more generally known throughout the East, and as it was known that they were quite ready to coal ships as they arrive, they had a good demand. They had received a very satisfactory acknowledgment in a letter published by Mr. William Guthrie, of the *Thunder*, in which it was stated that the company had ex-

cellent accommodation for coaling steamers that are compelled to call in there. The steamer *Thunder*, having experienced very heavy weather after leaving Singapore, was obliged to put into Labuan for a further supply of coal. He says, "We anchored off the Point on the morning of March 10, and in one hour afterwards there was a lighter squall, with 300 tons of coal on board. We took in our supply, and found them to be of excellent quality, and quite equal to the best West Hartley." He trusted that the directors would be satisfied to learn that the dividends in future would be greater than when the complete accounts came home they would be able to place more in dividend on the returns, and in 1863 it was about 15 per cent.; but they could not state the exact figure. They had made a profit of 7741 on the product of 4400 tons of coal sold, concluded by moving the adoption of the report, &c., which was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. MACKENNIE said that the affair had been rather longer coming to maturity than they anticipated, but they had nothing to fear for the future. At first there might have been some question as to the quantity and quality of the coal, but it was now reduced to a certainty—a 10-foot seam of coal declared to be equal to West Hartley. Taking the average of raising at the estimate of 10s. per ton, there would be a large margin of profit; but Mr. Sinclair thinks that 5s. 6d. or 6s. 6d. per ton will not be exceeded when they are in full work, and the Japan and China Company undertook to take 20,000 tons per annum at 21s. Indeed, their prospects were more favourable than ever.

The CHAIRMAN submitted the special resolution, of which due notice had been given, for the creation of 5000 new shares of 10s. each, to be offered at par ready to be given, holders whose names will appear in the register of shareholders on the close of the transfer-books on the 6th inst.; and informed the meeting that, according to the notice for the ensuing year, the amount the directors proposed to call up—21. 10s. per share—would be sufficient to meet the expenditure as would be strictly a matter of a capital nature, and part of which would be applied to the sinking of the B pit. The special resolution was put to the meeting and unanimously carried, and the Chairman announced that, as a matter of form, another meeting would be held on the 15th to confirm the same, as required by the Companies Act. The resolution provided for the payments to be made on these shares in two sums—11. on June 20, and 11. 10s. on July 30, and authorised the directors to dispose of all shares not taken and paid upon on or before June 20 for the benefit of the company. In reply to a shareholder, he stated that they ultimately intended to make a railway to Victoria, but that they would not be justified in doing so until the net reached 150,000 to 200,000 tons a year.

In reply to shareholders, the CHAIRMAN stated that the coal was saleable at 11s. 6d. at Singapore at 37s. 6d. The overstocking of the markets with coal from the large number of ships going out for cotton. The retiring directors and auditors were re-elected, and thanks were voted to the Chairman.

GREAT BARRIER LAND, HARBOUR, AND MINING CO.

The annual general meeting of shareholders was held at the offices of the company, Austinfriars, on Tuesday, Col. BAZALGETTE in the chair. Mr. J. H. MURCHISON (the secretary) read the notice convening the meeting, and the minutes of the last were approved.

The report of the directors was read, as follows:—

It is again the duty of your directors to lay before you the position and prospects of your undertaking, and though they regret that they cannot yet declare a dividend, they believe the time is not far distant when they will have no such pleasure.

The sawmill was completed and in full work in September last. In the next two months it returned about 40,000 feet of timber, but an obstacle then presented itself in bringing the logs to the mill, a large quantity having become jammed together in the creek; and in the absence of rain, no fresh having occurred to drive them out. The construction of another dam would, it was believed, remedy this annoying difficulty, but the want of the necessary funds at the disposal of the manager, arising from the directors having no means of supplying him, for this and other important objects, through the shareholders generally not subscribing for the debentures, precluded Mr. Allom from carrying it out. He immediately, however, took steps to endeavour to obtain such assistance as he considered would be satisfactory; and in his last letter (dated March 8), he states that "negotiations are pending which, I think, will result in an arrangement to work the mill in such a manner as will be very favourable to the company; and will ensure a dividend at a comparatively early date." It is not proposed to let the mill on lease, but to give the use of it for three years; the contractor to engage to supply weekly to the company an average of 30,000 feet of timber ready for market, at the mill, at 7s. per 100 feet, and to ensure the works; the contractor also to repay to the company the cost of the timber already felled. If any such agreement is adopted, its importance may be inferred from the following extract from Mr. Allom's last despatch:—"Timber is now being cut at 10s. per 100 feet—that is, ordinary market stuff; and the Government are calling for tenders for the supply of upwards of 1,000,000 feet for building the troops for the winter. The demand for timber for the next 12 months will, probably, be greater than it has ever been before in this province, and I think I am not over sanguine in believing that, within that period, I shall be able to pay a larger dividend than has yet been contemplated. At present prices a net profit of from 7000l. to 12,000l., within 12 months, is not only possible, but very probable. This, of course, depends upon an early arrangement being made with the proposed contractor." It is evident, therefore, that a large profit is certain as soon as the logs are brought to the mill; while the price is likely to be fully maintained, not only from the continued, if not increased, demand for general purposes and for new settlements, probably to be established on the conclusion of the war with the natives, but also from the yearly consumption of other forests in accessible positions.

With regard to the land, at the end of 1863 there were nearly 1000 acres cleared and bush fallen, of which nearly 600 acres were in grass, or otherwise in cultivation, upwards of 200 were ready to be laid down in grass, and upwards of 160 required further labour. Mr. Allom had sent home full particulars of these operations, and also detailed reports on the ten different farms and stations, which are open to your perusal. You will find that the want of capital alone retards highly remunerative results from this part of your property, not only in the partially developed portion of the land, but in considerably extending cultivation over more of your estate. The more vigorously operations can be carried on the more economically and speedily will the results be attained.

The estimated value of the company's sheep and cattle, at Dec. 31 last, was about 20601, full particulars of which have also been received, and are open to your inspection. Your directors have repeatedly impressed on you the highly remunerative results to be derived from largely increasing the stock of sheep, and again urge the adoption of that step, by your placing the required capital at their disposal.

Your directors have the pleasure of reporting that the arrangement sanctioned by you for the disposal of the mine to the Otea Copper Mining Company (Limited) has been carried into effect, by which you will remember, that the mine, after the payment of 5000 paid-up shares of 2s. each, together with a royalty of 1-20th on all ore sold. Of the purchase-money 15001, has already been received, and the remainder is payable by instalments. From all accounts of a reliable nature your directors are led to believe that with judicious, economical, and vigorous management the mine will be made remunerative; and, while they consider that under the circumstances the terms of sale were fair and reasonable to both parties, they cannot help noticing that purchases of properties of far less merit have been favourably supported in the market on much higher terms. In consequence of a delay in sending home accounts which were expected, but not received, on May 15, your directors were only able to lay before you a general statement, which shows a balance to be accounted for of 37731. 19s. They now add a statement of liabilities and assets, by which it will be seen that when the assets are realised and the liabilities paid there will be a balance on hand of 37731. 19s. to be transferred to the capital account. It will be seen that in the assets a sum of 46231. 6s. 8d. appears as profit and loss. This amount, and the sum of 21021. 7s. 7d. expenses incurred in developing the copper mine, will in future accounts be reduced by the value of the stock on hand, and a sum of 50001, receivable during the current year from the Otea Company, as part of the purchase-money of the mine. This delay has occurred in consequence of the manager's illness, and unavoidable absence at Auckland, preventing his examining and checking the accounts which were prepared. As soon as these are received more full accounts will be laid before you.

Of the first moiety of the debentures created last year—10,0001, only 54001 had been subscribed for (which includes 4001 since the beginning of the present year). This, together with a loan from the bankers on the personal security of your directors (of which a balance of 30001 still remains), has enabled them with difficulty to carry on the company's affairs to the present time. Of the 54001 debentures taken, your directors and six other shareholders hold 45501, and considering that there are 92 shareholders altogether, this seems to be scarcely fair. Your directors have been extremely reluctant to call up the remaining 10s. per share, and have occasionally advanced sums of money to the company rather than do so, because they feel that to call up the whole of the capital of a limited liability company is not at all desirable, but, however reluctantly, they can defer the matter no longer, and unless at least 20001 of the remaining first issue of the debentures is subscribed for by June 15, and the balance by July 15, there will be no alternative, and your directors will forthwith make the call.

Your directors would, in conclusion, only remark that their further experience of the undertaking tends to confirm their previous views respecting its legitimate character, and to convince them that a good profit will ultimately reward those who have invested in it. A considerable time has, no doubt, elapsed, but this has arisen chiefly in the first place, from causes generally inseparable from new enterprises in a comparatively new country; and in this case also from the limited capital available for the purposes of the company. The various different ways in which the property is capable of development render it unusually important, and to bring them into operation cheaply and quickly requires a vigorous and judicious outlay. Your directors have not much the disadvantage under which the company has laboured on account of limited funds, and have done their part to remedy this. They now again appeal to you to come forward and take up the remaining debentures, and thus aid materially in rendering profitable results. It must be borne in mind that your directors have been attending to your interests gratuitously, their remuneration being dependent on the profits applicable to a dividend, and it is not only unreasonable that you should throw the whole burden of carrying on the company on them, but it is to your own interest to assist them.

The directors who go out by rotation are Colonel Bazalgette and Mr. Michael Hall, who offer themselves for re-election, as do also the auditors.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the report be received and adopted. —Mr. FRYER having referred to the incompleteness of the accounts, stated that he thought their manager had not shown much foresight, by not having taken steps to prevent an accumulation of timber in a narrow creek. —The CHAIRMAN explained that that had happened by a circumstance over which the manager had no control. —Mr. FRYER said that the accounts were not complete, he should propose an amendment, to the effect that the meeting be adjourned till August 31, to allow time for the reception of complete accounts from the colony.

Mr. P. WRIGHT said as soon as possible after the accounts could be accurately prepared, it was the intention of the directors to forward a copy to each shareholder, and if necessary convene a special meeting; but he could not see what that had to do with the directors' report. In that report it was stated that the account presented could only be a partial one, because the full details had not yet been received. By the last mail but one the directors were positively promised full ledger accounts of 1863; but by the last mail they found that Mr. Allom had been detained in Auckland, which was really the cause why the full accounts were not received. As to the timber becoming jammed in the creek, he (Mr. Wright) could not attach any blame to Mr. Allom, for Mr. Allom had made a contract with one of the best backwoodsmen in New Zealand—the contract being to fell so much timber, and to make a dam by which it should be floated into the harbour. The contractor made the dam, but it was not found sufficiently powerful—that certainly could not be considered Mr. Allom's fault, for it was unquestionably that of the contractor's. A new dam was made, but that had not answered, owing to the want of rain—that could not be attributable to Mr. Allom. As regards the accounts, he might mention that they were ready by the time the mail before last left the island, but they required examination, which could not be made by Mr. Allom, owing to his being detained in Auckland, and being also detained there by the important negotiations to get the mill in full operation. He (Mr. Wright) suggested the desirability of deferring till the holding of the ordinary meetings till a somewhat later period in the year (say) till July, when it was almost certain the accounts for the previous year would be received.

Mr. J. V. N. BAZALGETTE (an auditor) explained the several items in the balance-sheet

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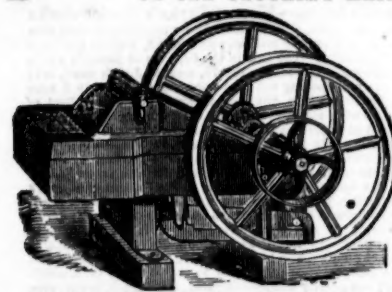
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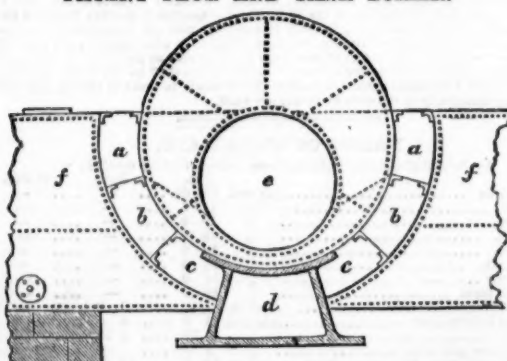
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The advantages of this boiler, as an illustrated description of which was published in the MINING JOURNAL of October 2, are obvious.

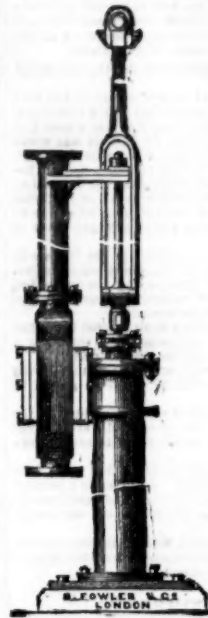
It is provided with WROUGHT IRON FLUES, conveying the fire entirely over the surface of boiler below the water line, and wholly doing away with lime coming in contact with any part of the boiler, lime having been found to destroy the boiler plates before any other parts are the worse for wear. This boiler has four additional flues to the plan at present adopted, thus affording a FAR GREATER AMOUNT OF HEATING SURFACE, AND MORE EFFECTUALLY CONSUMING THE GASES. Between the boiler and a wrought-iron tank is fixed, extending the whole length of the boiler, for containing water for feed; this water will pass into the boiler at any temperature required. This boiler will not require anyone to enter the flues for cleansing, as the flues are provided with shifting stoppers at the ends, enabling a person to cleanse the flues even while the boiler is hot; this plan answers for any size or length boiler, and will do away with the cold water feed, which has been the cause of so many accidents. These flues are made of wrought or cast-iron. On the top of the tank a pipe will be placed, to take the waste steam that escapes and carry it to the chimneys. The flues for a 6 ft. boiler will be 2 ft. long, and the usual width. It must be remembered that the tank once hot will remain a hot body, with the same amount of heat that passed off before in the brick flues. I would observe that there will be no more water taken from these tanks than will be required for the feed, consequently no more cold water will pass into these tanks than will be necessary for feeding. It is believed this plan will SAVE TEN FEET IN THE LENGTH OF BOILER, and it has been proved to EFFECT A SAVING OF RATHER MORE THAN ONE-THIRD IN THE CONSUMPTION OF FUEL. These boilers, with flues and tanks, can be supplied on the most reasonable terms.

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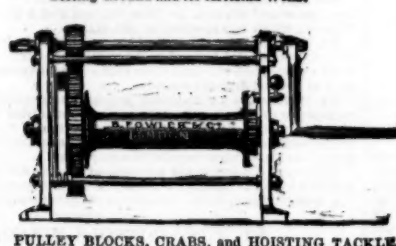
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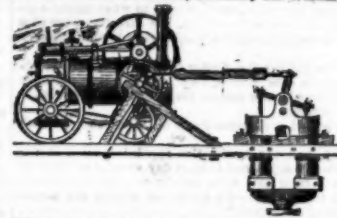
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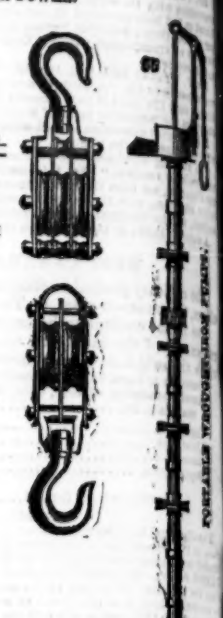
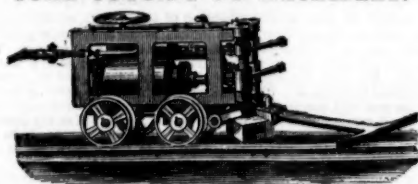


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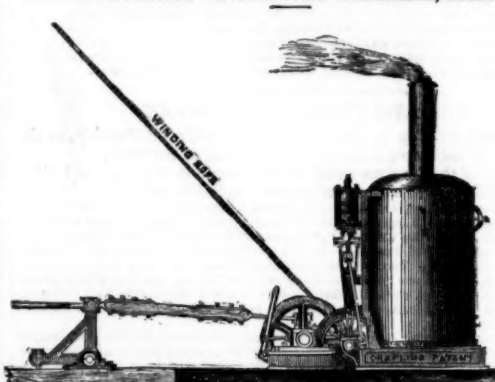
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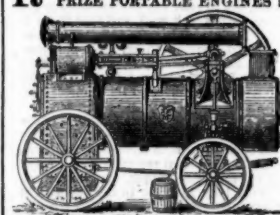
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